

District III Advisory Board Minutes
July 19, 2006
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The District III Advisory Board meeting was held at 7 p.m. at the Wichita Water Center at 101 E Pawnee. District III City Council member, Jim Skelton and 11 District Advisory Board members were in attendance. Eighteen city staffers were present and 30 members of the public, of which 27 signed in.

Members Present

Dewayne Kitchen
Matt Foley
Joann Hartig
Charlotte Foster
Gerry Myers
Jim Gulick
John Kemp
Judy Dillard
Bill Ward
Jesse Sheffield
Teresa Cook
Council Member Jim Skelton

Members Absent

Staff Present

Officer Dwain Diehl, Patrol South
Officer Ginny Wylie, Patrol South
Officer Brian Mock, Patrol East
Officer Justin Whyte, Patrol East
Officer Kevin Christy, Patrol East
Officer Jonathan Forred, Patrol East
Officer Gabe Ohmart, Patrol East
Officer John Groh, Patrol East
Officer Ryan Schomaker, Patrol East
Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Assistant
Steve King, Public Works
Gary Janzen, Public Works
Shawn Mellies, Public Works
Larry Foos, Park and Recreation
David McGuire, Park and Recreation
Cynthia Berner-Harris, Library
Mark Manning, Finance
Jay Newton, Finance

Guests

Listed on the last page

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Council Member Skelton called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The meeting minutes from June 7, 2006, were approved as submitted (**Gulick:Hartig, 10:0**)

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. There were no scheduled items submitted.
2. There were no off agenda items presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alta Paving

Gary Janzen and Steve King, Public Works, presented information on a petition to pave Alta from approximately 325' west of Ellis to Hydraulic. The signatures on the Petition represent 26 of 54 (48.1 percent) resident owners and 50.5 percent of the improvement district area. The estimated project cost is \$300,000 with \$294,944 assessed to the improvement district and \$5,056 paid by the City. The method of assessment is the square foot basis. The estimated assessment to individual properties is \$00.33 per square foot of ownership. The City share is for the cost of intersection construction.

Janzen reminded everyone that they had originally presented this project to the DAB on June 7, but the Board deferred the item until a neighborhood meeting could be held. That meeting was held on June 29, and they plan to take the item before Council on August. 8.

DAB member **John Kemp** joined the meeting.

Discussion from the public was opened and Councilman Skelton explained that each speaker would be allowed to speak once and for five minutes.

Mike Williams, 1620 Alta, said he received a certified letter from the City after the first DAB meeting and he went out and passed a petition of his own and filed it with the City Clerk on June 28. He said he passed the petition against the paving because he thinks it is going to cost too much money. He said 29 signatures represent 50 percent of the benefit district and he collected 31 signatures on his petition. He was also concerned about citizens being liable for the cost if a new water line was needed.

Linda Coleman, 1633 Alta, said that she didn't want a 20-year petition on a 50-year-old house.

John Coleman, 1633 Alta, said the cost is \$2,800 more than they were told and they were originally told 10 years, and now it's 20 years.

Darren Stone, 1422 Alta, said most of the people in the neighborhood are elderly and money is tight and he doesn't support the paving project.

Michelle Williams, 1620 Alta, said they were told when they signed the petition that it was for 10 years and they were shocked when the letter from the City said it was for 20 years. She said there are elderly people in the neighborhood on a fixed income and people who live paycheck to paycheck and they were given incorrect information.

Janzen explained that if a water line needed to be replaced, the city would take care of it at no additional cost.

Discussion returned to the Board.

Bill Ward said he had heard that people in the neighborhood were coerced into signing the petition, and he wanted to know who carried the petition and did the coercing.

Mike Williams, 1620 Alta, named three individuals.

Gerry Myers said that before the first meeting he drove the area and talked to five residents who didn't want the street paved. They told him they couldn't afford it and they would lose their house.

Jim Gulick asked if 20 years is normal on these projects.

Janzen said it used to be 15 years, but the Council recently changed it to 20 years to lessen the monthly financial impact on citizens. He also explained that citizens could not apply for a deferral until after the project is completed and all of the costs are in.

Matt Foley pointed out that there is a valid petition and that the assessments are right around \$550 per property. He noted that two years from now the cost could be much higher.

Charlotte Foster had questions on how Public Works arrived at the figures presented on the petition.

King said they used a formula similar to a house payment that figures in interest.

Janzen added that they fund these projects with bond sales and include the estimated cost plus interest.

Charlotte Foster said the monthly cost was around \$40 and she believed the paving would make the neighborhood nicer.

Jesse Sheffield said he attended the neighborhood meeting and he didn't see any signs of anyone having been strong-armed. He said he drove the neighborhood and he thinks it would improve property values and that it is a valid petition.

Teresa Cook asked if citizens who signed the petition could change their mind.

Janzen said they have seven days after the filing to remove their name.

Charlotte Foster asked if there are other streets in the area that are not paved.

Janzen said there are a number of streets in the area that are unpaved.

Judy Dillard said she wasn't able to attend the neighborhood meeting, but she didn't think that the second petition had any legal bearing.

Janzen said that Council only has to consider it if the street has been ordered it. That is in accordance with State statute.

Judy Dillard said she would like to see some changes in how paving petitions are handled.

Jim Gulick (Hartig) made a motion to approve and forward the petition.

Matt Foley asked if the annual payments listed include interest.

King said yes, five percent.

Matt Foley asked if the projections are a solid cost.

Janzen said they expect they are high on their estimate and that they have a fair amount of money designated for drainage improvements. He explained that if the bids for the project all came in over the projected cost, the entire process would have to start over with a new petition.

Matt Foley confirmed with **Janzen** that the cost listed for each resident would be that amount or lower.

Motion passed 8:3.

Action: Board moved to approve the petition for the paving project.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Police Report

Officer Dwain Diehl, Patrol South Beat 24, reported they will be passing out flyers for the Aug. 1 National Night Out event. Last year 1700 people attended the block party on the 24 Beat. He also said that they have been conducting morals stings each week and that there are two houses in the Patrol South area that will go before the board for possible condemnation. He also gave a short report on the South Broadway bus tour that occurred in June, and about Teresa Cook organizing neighborhood help for a disabled man who lives in the 1900 block of S. Palisade.

Officer Ginny Wylie, Patrol South Beat 25, said they have been running John stings and have made around 15 arrests over the past couple of weeks. She also reported on a couple of major parking problems she has been addressing – 1700 block of S. Laura and the 1300 block of S. Mosley. She also reported the 25 Beat had nine residential burglaries the past month, which is down from last year. She provided information for Officer Virgil Miller on the 26 Beat. There was a shooting in the 1600 block of E. Crowley involving known gang members.

Officer Brian Mock, Patrol East Beat 36, reported that burglaries are up, but there is no pattern. Bicycle larcenies are up, but graffiti is down some. They are currently doing surveys in some of the low income housing areas in this beat to determine what citizens see as area needs.

Charlotte Foster asked what is happening at the apartments south of Linwood Park. **Officer Wylie** said they are currently going into foreclosure.

Matt Foley asked why police don't use the seizure statutes on these drug houses, which were used during the early 1990s. **Officer Diehl** said because it's such an arduous process it can take up to two or three years to seize a house and requires lots of documentation.

Officer Justin Whyte, Patrol East Beat 32, reported burglaries are up on the 32 Beat. He said a neighbor called police and when police arrived they caught a burglar just as he was breaking into a house. He also reported on the July 15 Hooked on Fishing project where 35 kids fished at Harrison Park with police officers. He said every child caught a fish. He also pointed out that the soft uniform has been approved for police officers through Labor Day.

Action: Received and file.

Water Distribution System

Gary Janzen and Steve King, Public Works, presented a Petition to construct a Water Distribution System to serve an area along Mead Street, from 55th St. South to 57th St. South. The signatures on the Petition represent 16 of 34 (47%) resident owners and 57% of the Improvement district area. The project will construct a water distribution system for a residential area that is currently served by private water wells. The estimated project cost is \$95,000 with the total assessed to the improvement district. The method of assessment is the square foot basis. The estimated assessment to individual properties is \$00.20 per square foot of ownership.

Judy Dillard asked how much of that area has City water. **King** said he wasn't sure, but he knows that some areas do not have City water.

Judy Dillard (Kitchen) made a motion to accept the petition.

Motion passed 11:0.

Action: Board moved to approve the petition for the water distribution system.

Bike Path from Garvey Park to Planeview Park

Gary Janzen, Public Works, and Pat Baer, KE Miller Engineering, presented the proposed design for the bike path. Landscaped rest areas will be included in the project and the estimated construction cost is \$1,000,000. In several of the areas of the design, two options were presented for review and input.

Jim Skelton asked why there was a loop on Hydraulic in Section A of the proposed alignment. **Baer** said because the path will go underneath Hydraulic.

Matt Foley asked why a certain area appeared to be platted when there are no structures there. **Baer** said because the City owns the property, but it's not suitable for building on.

Jesse Sheffield asked if the path runs through any residential areas. **Baer** said no.

Charlotte Foster asked if Park and Recreation would be responsible for maintaining the area around the bike path. **Janzen** said yes.

Jody Bennett, 1709 E. Laura, asked if the path would be influenced by high water, and how Chapin Park improvements might impact the project. **Baer** said the bike path will fall in the 100-year flood plane, and as far as Chapin Park, they are working closely with Park and Recreation on the project.

Matt Foley asked if the project is federally funded. **Janzen** said 80 percent of the cost would be paid with federal funding.

Jim Gulick asked about the bike path that is supposed to be going in by Joyland Amusement Park. **Janzen** said that is a different project and they are having some problems with right-of-way issues.

Jim Gulick wanted to know how many estimated people would utilize the bike path. **Janzen** said he could not provide numbers, but that Metropolitan Planning had done that study and found the bike path warranted.

Judy Dillard said she and **Jody Bennett** had attended meetings several years ago on bike paths and many people are interested in them, including Sedgwick County citizens, specifically Derby citizens. She said that she liked the option where the path goes through Chapin Park.

Baer said that cyclists, as well as pedestrians, could use the path and there are pause points where people can rest.

DeWayne Kitchen asked why the option that doesn't go through Planeview Park was offered? **Baer** said it's a matter of money. If the project goes over budget, they have an alternative at the end of the project that is less costly that would allow the project to be completed.

DeWayne Kitchen (Hartig) made a motion to approve the project.

Jim Skelton asked when construction would start and **Janzen** said next year.

Larry Manny, 1116 Alturas, asked where does Joyland come in on this project. **Janzen** said that is a separate project.

Motion passed 11:0.

Action: Board moved to approve the project.

O.J. Watson Park Entrance

Larry Foos and David McGuire, Park and Recreation, and Kurt Skinner, Law/Kingdon, presented the Board with information about the new proposed entrance for O. J. Watson Park, which is located at 3055 South Old Lawrence Road. Law/Kingdon, Inc. was selected to design a new park entrance to the west side of the park along McLean Blvd. and to enhance the area with landscaping. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) in the amount of \$540,00 provides funding in 2006 and an additional \$200,000 CIP transfer was approved by the City Council for a total amount of \$740,000. This project will make the park more accessible and more identifiable to the public. The new entrance will also reduce the amount of traffic along 30th Street South and South Old Lawrence Road.

Jim Gulick asked if there would be any special accommodations for southbound traffic. **Skinner** said no.

JoAnn Hartig asked about the current facilities and **Foos** said they would remain the same.

Charlotte Foster wanted to know how much of the new entrance would be wrought iron. **Skinner** said around 250 feet.

Matt Foley asked when construction would start and **Foos** said by the end of the year.

Matt Foley (Dillard) made a motion to approve the project.

Elena Ingle, 3608 Meadow Lane, asked if the homeowners who live nearby were okay with the new entrance. **Foos** said letters were sent to all of them, and none of them contacted him.

Paul Davis, 1774 S. Madison Ct., said he liked the idea and thought it would cut down on trash and vandalism on Old Lawrence Road.

Motion passed 11:0.

Action: Board moved to approve the project.

(Board member John Kemp left the meeting)

Library Master Plan

Cynthia Berner-Harris, Library Director, provided history on the 20-year library plan that was formulated in 1965 and updated in 1985. In 1999 the library adopted its current master plan, and is now working on updating it.

The current revisions to the plan include: By 2011: Create a new 120,000 s.f. Central Library in the core area of the City. By 2013: Replace the current Westlink branch with a 22,000 s.f. regional library in the general area of the present location (incorporates the current Orchard branch). By 2016: Create a new 5,000 neighborhood branch library for Southeast Wichita in the general area of Pawnee and George Washington Boulevard (relocating and combining the Planeview and Linwood branches). Between 2016 and 2021: Create a new 22,000 s.f. regional library in far East/Northeast Wichita (relocating and combining the Comotara and Rockwell branches). By 2021: Expand and/or remodel the existing Alford, Angelou and Evergreen branch libraries. No closings of current facilities should take occur until replacement service is in place. Selection of sites for any new facilities should be coordinated with Wichita Transit to ensure best access for residents that rely on transit services.

Matt Foley said he doesn't think that the proposal for the Central Library is big enough, and neither is the proposed size for the Southeast Branch.

Gerry Myer said he thought the square footage on all the proposed buildings is too small.

Charlotte Foster said she didn't like the relocation proposal for the Rockwell branch because it's just one more time they are taking amenities from the core of the city and moving them to the edge.

JoAnn Hartig said she felt it's important that the libraries be located close enough to residential areas that citizens can walk to them.

Bill Ward said there is currently land available in the Spencer Garden Addition for the Southeast Library. He did not like the proposed size or the time frame for construction.

Jim Gulick said he is in favor of moving Linwood, but in the meantime he would like to see some different books there.

Karin Smith, 2240 Crestway, said her neighborhood is delighted that they might get this new library but are worried about the time frame. She said the land in the Spencer Garden location is available now.

Berner-Harris said once Council approves the plan, then they can begin looking at the land issue.

Action: Board provided comment.

Motion was made by Teresa Cook (?) to postpone the scheduled budget item until the next meeting.

Motion passed 5:4.

Jim Skelton told the Board postponing the budget would be a very bad idea because it has to be adopted by Council by August 8th and they need the time for the public hearings. He also pointed out that it was only 9:30 p.m., which allowed plenty of time for the budget presentation.

Matt Foley (Sheffield) made a motion to continue with the meeting and hear the budget presentation. **Motion passed 7:2**

Budget presentation

Mark Manning, Finance Department, reported that City Finance staff, along with the Leadership Team for Transforming Wichita, have coordinated the development of the 2007-2008 City Manager's proposed budget. City staff have been working diligently in strategy teams since January of 2006 to develop the base budgets and recommend the inclusion of service adjustment plans in the 2007-2008 proposed budget. Service Adjustment Plans are any increase to the current service levels through reallocating current resources or adding additional resources to add increased service to the public. The proposed budget is aimed at impacting the five core goals that were adopted by the City Council.

The 2007-2008 proposed budget will be reviewed at City Council public hearings July 18, 2006, and August 1, 2006. Public hearings are available for the public to give the City Council and staff feedback on the budget. The budget must be adopted by August 8 under state statute.

Manning went through several of the budget highlights and also provided copies of the Budget in Brief document.

Matt Foley asked if the rising energy costs have been factored into this budget. **Manning** said there is around \$1,000,000 more in this year's budget for fuel.

Charlotte Foster asked what a community educator is because the City is adding one, which will mean three for the City. **Manning** explained they are stationed at the Neighborhood City Halls and provide educational programs for citizens.

Judy Dillard said the budget documents don't ever really tell citizens what they want to know. She cited the example of fire investigators and said she didn't realize the City had a shortage of those until the Twigs fire.

Jim Skelton pointed out that the 24 additional fire fighters would be grant funded and he doesn't think that the City of Wichita will receive the grant funds. He also said that South City is being considered last to receive a fire station based on an old study – there will be further discussion by City Council.

Gerry Myers said he asked Mr. Cornejo how long of a window he was giving the City on the offer of a land donation for a new fire station and the window was five years.

Action: Board provided comment.

BOARD AGENDA

Updates, Issues and Reports

Due to the late hour, the Board agreed to forego the individual reports from the Neighborhood Association representatives.

Matt Foley told everyone they should avoid driving on Mt. Vernon at the overpass due to a large buckle in the street.

Jim Gulick thanked everyone who participated in the demonstration at City Hall for the South City fire station.

Adjournment

Matt Foley (Hartig) made a motion to adjourn at 10 p.m. Motion passed 9:0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting for District Advisory Board III will be held at 7 p.m., August 2, 2006, at the Water Center 101 E. Pawnee.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Johnson,
Neighborhood Assistant – District III

Guests

Elena Ingle	3608 Meadow Lane
Michelle Williams	1620 Alta
Mike Williams	1620 Alta
John Coleman	1633 Alta
Linda Coleman	1633 Alta
Ken Parli	2730 Laura
Helen Parli	2730 Laura
Donna Thorton	2714 Southfork
George Bruffett	1408 Alta
Marilyn Bruffett	1408 Alta
Paul Davis	6417 S. Madison Ct.
Kerin Smith	2240 S. Crestway
Lynda Novotny	1209 Jump
Kathy Manny	1116 Alturas
Larry Manny	1116 Alturas
Jody Bennett	1709 E. 48 th St. S.
Carole Campbell	2821 S. Mosley
Claudia Lee	2826 Greenwood
James Pruden	2918 E. Morris
Darrell Guinty	1428 Alta
Darrin Stone	1422 Alta
Bruce Evans	1402 Alta
Linda Evans	1402 Alta
John Stevens	3125 E. Boston
Ron Becker	1822 Fernwood
Becky Nordyke	1226 Tulsa
Betty Sheckland	1302 Galena